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## Women's Suffrage: Voting Rights in Cache County, Utah 1870-1965

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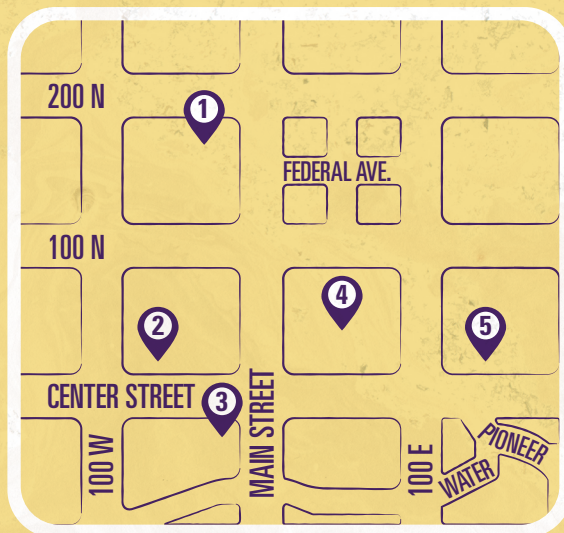
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For more information on women's suffrage and voting rights in Utah, visit [betterdays2020.com](http://betterdays2020.com).

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## NOTABLE EVENTS

### February 12, 1870

Utah becomes the second state to pass legislation recognizing women's right to vote in state and local elections.

### February 14, 1870

Seraph Young of Salt Lake City becomes the first woman to legally vote in the modern United States.

### March 3, 1887

The anti-polygamy Edmunds-Tucker Act becomes law; Utah women are denied the right to vote.

### December 10, 1889

The Cache County Woman Suffrage Association is formed; 78 women join.

### September 1890

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints publishes the Woodruff Manifesto, officially disavowing polygamy and paving the way for statehood.

### March–May 1895

The Utah Constitutional Convention is held.

### April 8, 1895

All of Cache County's delegates vote to include women's suffrage in the state constitution.

### November 5, 1895

Utah's male electorate approves the proposed state constitution. Cache County overwhelmingly votes to approve: 2,608 to 246.

### January 4, 1896

The U.S. Congress grants Utah statehood; Utah women can once again vote in state and local elections.

### August 18, 1920

The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is ratified, prohibiting sex discrimination in voting. Women in Utah and across the nation can vote in federal elections.

### June 24, 1924

The Indian Citizenship Act becomes law, granting Native Americans U.S. citizenship and voting rights; however, Utah continues to bar Native Americans living on reservations from voting.

### June 27, 1952

The McCarran-Walter Act is enacted, giving Asian Americans citizenship and acknowledging their voting rights.

### February 14, 1957

The Utah legislature repeals laws denying voting rights to Native Americans living on reservations.

### August 6, 1965

President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act prohibiting racial discrimination in voting.



*Logan Tabernacle, 1885*



## WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

VOTING RIGHTS IN  
CACHE COUNTY, UTAH

1870-1965



## CELEBRATING

the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to  
the U.S. Constitution



the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
Utah Women Voting





**UTAH'S STORY** of women's suffrage is unique: it is the only state where women had to fight to reclaim voting rights that were once recognized but later denied them. In 1870, Utah Territory endorsed voting rights for women in state and local elections. They exercised these rights until 1887 when the U.S. Congress passed the Edmunds-Tucker Act, rejecting the voting rights of all Utah women as part of the bill's efforts to end polygamy.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints officially denounced plural marriage in the 1890 Woodruff Manifesto, paving the way for statehood. When delegates gathered to draft the state constitution, women's suffrage became a central issue for debate. Rather than include the right in the body of the constitution, some wished to add it later as an amendment. Ultimately, Utah was granted statehood on January 4, 1896, with women's suffrage preserved in the body of the state constitution.

These rights were strengthened in 1920 with the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which banned sex discrimination in voting and acknowledged the right of women in Utah and across the nation to vote in federal elections. Additional laws, culminating with the Voting Rights Act in 1965, expanded voting rights to Native Americans, Asian Americans, and other racial minorities.

## NOTABLE WOMEN

### Mattie Hanson

Mattie Hanson was a well-known Logan woman who was highly influential in local politics. She was elected the second vice-president of the Cache County Woman Suffrage Association in 1889, as well as the first vice-president to the convention of the Cache County Democratic party in 1895. She gave multiple political speeches, including a speech at a July 8, 1895 Democratic meeting in Hyrum on women in politics.



### Louisa Lula Greene Richards

Louisa Lula Greene Richards, Utah's first female newspaper editor, settled in Smithfield, Utah in 1865. After founding the *Smithfield Sunday School Gazette* in 1869, she moved to Salt Lake City to become the first editor of the *Woman's Exponent* in 1872. *The Exponent* was a highly influential newspaper for Utah women, touching on a multitude of issues including suffrage, religion, and women's education. Richards later penned the song "Woman, Arise" for the *Utah Woman Suffrage Song Book*, published by the Utah Woman Suffrage Association in 1891.



### Mary Ann Weston Maughan

Mary Ann Weston Maughan was an advocate for women's causes as the first president of the Cache Valley Relief Society, a Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints women's organization with ties to the suffrage movement. Her husband, Peter, was the chairman of the committee on elections for the territorial legislature and introduced the bill that first recognized Utah women's right to vote in 1870.



### Adeline Hatch Barber

Adeline Hatch Barber, a Relief Society president in Smithfield, spoke at the founding meeting of the Cache County Woman Suffrage Association in 1889. A silk maker, she wove the black silk gifted to national suffrage leader Susan B.



Anthony by a group of Relief Society women in appreciation for her help in securing the right to vote for Utah women. The dress Anthony had made from the material is on display at her home in Rochester, New York.

## NOTABLE PLACES

(see map on back)

### 1. Cache County Courthouse

199 N. Main St.

The location of the Cache County Democratic convention where Mattie Hanson was elected to a party leadership position in 1895.

### 2. Palace Hall

75 W. Center St., third floor. (Damaged in a 1934 earthquake, resulting in the removal of the second and third floors; the remainder of the building was remodeled and is now occupied by the Bluebird Candy Company.)

Location of a celebratory ball after Utah women's voting rights were once again recognized in 1896.

### 3. Thatcher Opera House

15 S. Main St. (Burned in 1912 and replaced by the current four-story building at the corner of Main and Center.)

The 1895 Democratic convention adjourned to the opera house when the courthouse became too crowded and warm.

### 4. Logan Tabernacle

50 N. Main St.

Hosted the foundational meeting of the Woman Suffrage Association of Cache County in 1889 and a celebratory banquet after Utah women's voting rights were once again recognized in 1896.

### 5. Peter and Mary Ann Weston Maughan's Home

135 E. Center St. (Demolished c. 1910 and replaced by current home at this address.)